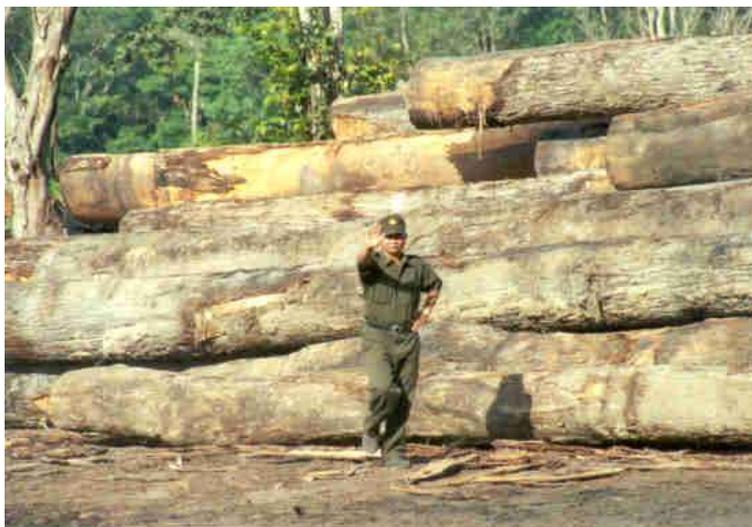




Snatching success from the jaws of failure

7-8 December 2016, Manila, Philippines

Being seen to be doing...: Forest Crime Monitoring and Reporting Project in Cambodia



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Forest crime monitoring & reporting project

Implemented in Cambodia

- Phase I – November 1999 to February 2001 (Budget US\$0.75 million)
- Phase II – May 2001 to May 2003 (Budget US\$2.1 million)

UNDP Trust Fund Project funded by DFID and AusAID (Ph. I), DANIDA (Ph. II)

Designated local institutions: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of Environment (MoE)

Executing agency: FAO



Project objectives

To build capacity within existing government structures to detect, investigate and suppress forest crimes.

The project provided:

- priority technical assistance
- critically needed equipment
- training
- salary supplements to Government staff assigned to two forest monitoring units
- financing contract of the Independent Monitor of forest crimes



Independent Monitor

Global Witness' appointed as Independent Monitor



Roles

- Audit government records
- Determine whether Department of Forestry and Wildlife and the Ministry of Environment's Department of Inspections (DI) are effectively carrying out their respective project mandates
- Conduct their own investigations into forest crimes to verify govt. agency work

Key, high profile aspect in ensuring the project's integrity

What the project found

- Extensive forest crime
- Pervasive timber theft
- Uncontrolled timber extraction
- Inaction by the authorities
- Lack of capacity in monitoring Departments
- Bribery and corruption are rife



Global Witness report: Deforestation without limits: How the Cambodian government failed to tackle the untouchables (2002)

Forestry operations in Cambodia around 2000

- In 1995, 32 Forest Concessions awarded covering 6.4 million ha (35% of national land area)
- Significant logging outside concession boundaries (hundreds of hectares in some cases)
- Stockpiles of unbranded illegal logs routinely discovered at mills
- Numerous illegal sawmills in operation
- Large-scale encroachment in protected areas



Forestry operations in Cambodia around 2000 (cont'd)

- Large areas of forest logged and cleared for agriculture by the Cambodian military (especially in protected areas)
- Few, if any, meaningful Departmental investigations
- Investigations thwarted by bureaucracy and corruption
- US\$6,000 bounty reportedly offered to “anyone who shoots down the Global Witness plane”



Project “failures”

- Almost no effective prosecutions of forest crimes
- Tracking system ineffectual and of little value
- Breakdowns in the working relationships between the Independent Monitor and MAFF, and the Project Adviser and MAFF
- Global Witness replaced as Independent Monitor and “invited” to leave Cambodia



Project “successes”

- Enabled engagement of politicians at the highest levels
- Exposed severe deficiencies in forest governance
- Helped maintain a high profile for forest governance issues
- Probably suppressed a significant amount of forest crime



Lessons learned

- Being seen to be doing.... the value of high visibility approach in taking on issues
- Value in forming coalitions of partners with different strengths
- Donors and international community being willing to take risks
- Capacity development – lessons for international agencies (FLEGT, Certification, VPAs etc.) and Global Witness





EXTRA HIGH TIDE FLOODS BEHOLDING THE LEVEL OCEAN

THANK YOU